

is now in the possession of Mr. Charles Adamson of this town, was in good condition, weighing $2\frac{1}{2}$ pounds.—*Morning Chronicle* of Feb. 6.

ON THE ORIGIN OF THE CORMS OF COLCHICUM.

At the sitting of the Society of the Friends of Natural History of Berlin on the 19th of November, M. Link exhibited a corm of *Colchicum arenarium*, on which a flower-bud and the traces of two stems past flowering occurred, one of which was situated in the middle with the root-fibres. This proves that the base of the flower whence the root-fibres take their origin, and which during the flowering period is very small, subsequently increases in size and forms the true corm, traces of the stem of which, raised by the upward growth, are long visible. The growth of the corm, in which many have expected to find some regularity, is very irregular. *Colchicum arenarium*, which develops more flowers at one time than *C. autumnale*, exhibits this most distinctly.—*Bot. Zeitung*, Jan. 10, 1845.

INFUSORIAL DEPOSITS IN AMERICA.

“Charleston is built upon a bed of animalcules several hundred feet in thickness, every *cubic inch* of which is filled with myriads of perfectly preserved microscopic shells. These shells however *do not*, like those beneath Richmond and Petersburg, &c., belong to the siliceous infusoria, but are all derived from those minute calcareous-shelled creatures, called by Ehrenberg Polythalamia, and by D’Orbigny the Foraminifera. You are aware that Ehrenberg proved chalk to be chiefly made up of such shells, and you will doubtless be pleased to learn that the tertiary beds beneath your city are filled with more numerous and more perfect specimens of these beautiful forms than I have ever seen in chalk or marl from any other locality.

“The following are some of the results I have obtained:—

“1. The marls from the depth of 110 feet to 193 feet are certainly *tertiary* deposits, for I found them to contain Polythalamia of the family *Plicatilia* of Ehrenberg (*Agathestegens* of D’Orbigny), which family, as far as is yet known, occurs in *no formation older than the tertiary*.

“2. The beds from the depth of 193 feet to 309 feet contain so many species in common with the beds above them, that although I have not yet detected the *Plicatilia*, I still believe they must also belong to the tertiary formation.

“3. The forms found in these beds agree much better with those detected by me in the eocene marls from Panumkey River, Virginia, than they do with miocene Polythalamia from Petersburg, Va., and I am consequently inclined to believe that they belong to the *eocene* epoch.

“4. All the marls to the depth of 236 feet present the Polythalamia in *vast* abundance, and in a state of surprising preservation. The most delicate markings of the shells are perfectly preserved, and some of the forms are so large that they may be easily seen with a common pocket-lens.

“5. The lithological characters of the marls from 236 feet to 309